(d) Our troops are ever vigilant to counter any threat to the country's security.

Rehabilitation of Physically Handicapped persons

225. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of physically handicapped persons in each State and Union Territory;

(b) the steps Government are taking to rehabilitate them; and

(c) The *per capita* financial assistance given to physically handicapped persons in a year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) the *per capita* financial assistance given to physically handicapped persons under the two major schemes during 1983-84 is as follows:

1. Scolarship to the physically handicapped—Rs. 1019.00.

2. Aids and appliances to the physically handicapped—Rs. 4,78.00.

Statement

Number of physically handicapped persons* having at least one of the physical disabilities** for each State and Union Territory of rural and urban areas.

*By applying prevalent rate to Census 1981 N. L Physical disability covers (i) visual (ii) hearing and/or speech and (iii) locomotor disability.

(*Figures in lakhs*)

State/Union Territory	No. of handicapped persons		
	Rural	Urban	Total
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	9.96	2.22	12.18
2. Assam	1.48	0.16	1.64
3. Bihar	11.46	1.16	12.61
4. Gujarat	3.54	1.18	4.72
5. Haryana	1.95	0.63	2.58
6. Himachal Pradesh	0.66	0.035	0.695
7. Jammu & Kashmir	0.83	0.117	0.947
8. Karnataka	5.00	1.42	6.42
9. Kerala	3.40	0.79	4.90
10. Madhya Pradesh	5.79	1.17	6.96
11. Maharashtra	6.78	2.59	9.37
12. Manipur	0.075	0.018	0.930
13. Meghalaya	0.123	0.013	0.136
14. Nagaland	Not Surveyed	0.004	

1	2	3	4
15. Orissa	5.03	0.456	5.486
16. Punjab	3.13	0.76	3.89
17. Rajasthan	5.55	1.17	6.72
18. Tamil Nadu	6.88	3.36	10.24
19. Tripura	0.389	0.034	0.424
20. Sikkim	Not Surveyed	..	..
21. Uttar Pradesh	17.31	2.94	20.25
22. West Bengal	6.50	1.394	7 89
Union Territories :			
23. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Not Surveyed	..	..
24. Arunachal Pradesh	Not Surveyed	..	..
25. Chandigarh	0.0032	0.063	0.0662
26. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0 0105	Not Surveyed	..
27. Delhi	0.085	0.55	0.635
28. Lakshadweep	Not Surveyed	..	..
29. Goa, Daman & Diu	0.114	0.0365	0 150
30. Mizoram	0.057	0.0111	0.068
31. Pondicherry	0.095	0.101	0.196
TOTAL :	96 894	22.68	119.674

(b) Following steps are taken to rehabilitate the handicapped:

1. To assist handicapped in securing education—academic, technical, professional training, training in industrial establishment, scholarships|stipends are given. Blind students are given reader's allowance and orthopaedically handicapped students are given an allowance for maintenance for their aids/appliances and transport allowance in addition to scholarships.

2. Aids and appliances costing between Rs. 25 and Rs. 1500 are given to physically handicapped persons free of cost to those having income less than Rs. 750 p.m. and at 50 per cent of the cost to those having income between Rs. 751 and Rs. 1500.

3. Voluntary organisations are given financial assistance to set up projects for education, training and retabilitation of the handicapped persons.

4. To assist handicapped persons in getting employment Government of India have set up 22 spe-

cial employment exchanges and 36 special employment cells in normal employment exchanges which are exclusively engaged in placement of handicapped persons in gainful employment. In addition, normal employment exchanges also help handicapped persons in placement services.

5. 14 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in regular employment.

6. Public Telephone Booths are given to physically handicapped persons to help them earn a living.

7. Some other major schemes under which assistance is given to handicapped persons are as follows:—

(i) Loans are available from nationalised banks at nominal rates of interest so as to enable the handicapped persons to set up self-employment ventures.

(ii) Travel concessions are available to disabled persons as follows:—

(a) 75 per cent travel concessions by rail to blind and orthopaedically handicapped;

(b) 50 per cent travel concession by Indian Airlines only to blind persons; and

(c) Concessions ranging from 50 per cent to 100 per sent by buses of various State Transport Corporations.

(iii) Physically handicapped owners of motorised vehicle are granted exemption from payment of road tax by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations;

(iv) Petrol is given at subsidised rate to disabled persons using motorised vehicles.

(v) 15 per cent of all types of dealership/agencies of the public sector oil companies are reserved for handicapped persons, including those disabled in war.

8. The following specific schemes benefit the physically handicapped in the rural areas:—

(i) District Rehabilitation Centres Scheme under which the target population is the rural disabled. This scheme has been launched on a pilot basis in 6 districts in the country.

(ii) 11 Rural Rehabilitation Centres have been set up attached to the vocational rehabilitation Centres which look after the vocational needs of rural handicapped persons exclusively.

9. Ministry of Education gives 100 per cent financial assistance for promoting Integrated Education of disabled children in normal schools. For this purpose certain facilities are given to the handicapped children, the teachers in the normal schools where such a programme is undertaken.

10. Four National Institutes one each for visual, hearing, orthopaedically and mentally handicapped has been set up as apex bodies for training manpower, undertaking research and developing new programmes.

11. The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation, a public sector undertaking manufactures standard quality aids and appliances for orthopaedically handicapped.

12. 3 per cent vacancies in identified group C and D posts in the public sector have been reserved for physically handicapped 1 per cent each to the blind, deaf and orthopaedically handicapped. To facilitate their employment in Government and public sector, relaxation in age and medical stndards is given.